USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

Iraq: Crop Progress Report

MY 2008/09

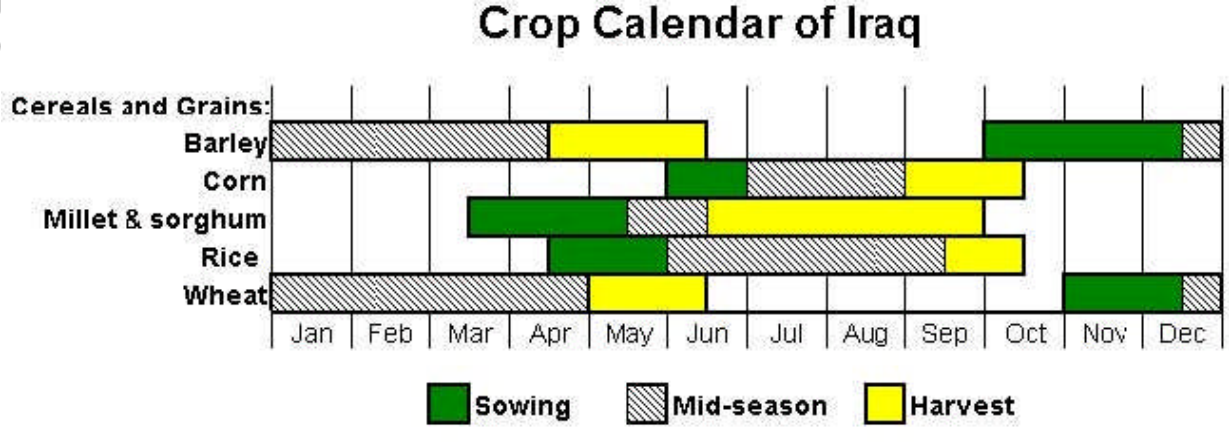
November Report – Week 4 **November 29th, 2008**

1. The most Northern and Central governorates experienced an average of 10mm of accumulated rainfall during the third week of November with possible accumulation of 25mm (Figure 1).

2. Heavier precipitation is forecasted for November 30th as a storm system moves through the region, bringing as much as 50mm of rain to Northeast governorates with accumulation averaging around 15mm (Figure 2).

3. Rainfall for the period of Nov 1st to Nov 25th is slightly higher than the previous year in portions of the Northern rainfed governorates such as Ninawa, southern Arbil, northern At Ta'min, and western As Sulaymaniyah (Figure 3); these provinces represent a large proportion of total winter grains production that ranges from 15% to 40% for barley and 15% to 20% for wheat (Figure 4). Rainfall is less than the previous year in the northern most portions of the Kurdish governorates, but these areas do not correspond with cropland cover (Figure 5).

4. The month of November experienced light precipitation events with rainfall accumulation peaking around 25mm. The cumulative measurement for this time of month was higher than the previous year, especially for the governorate of Ninawa where farmers were reportedly waiting for more rain before sowing their rainfed winter grain crop. Although it is late in the season, Mid-December is typically the latest cut-off point for establishing the rainfed crop in Iraq.



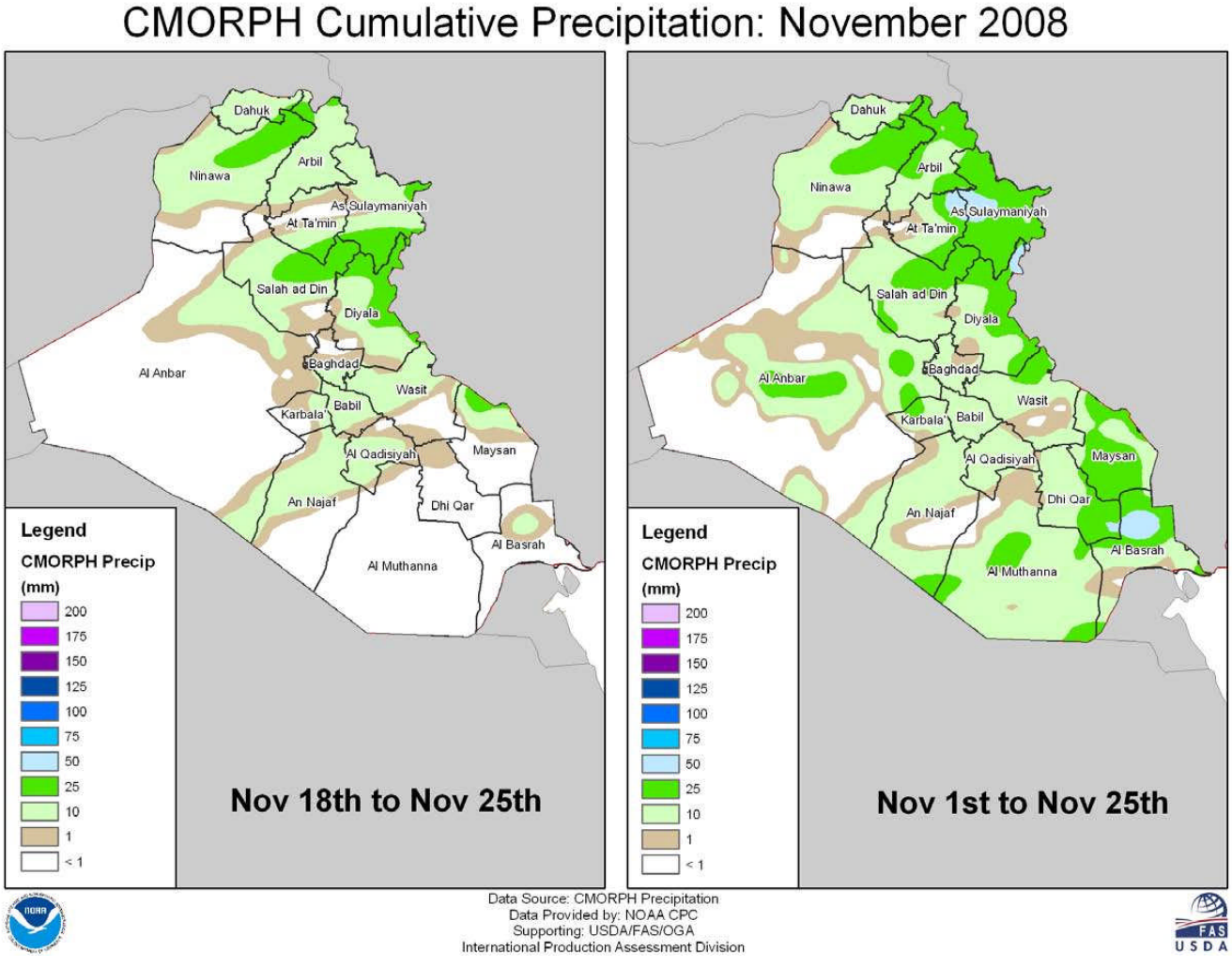


Figure 1: CMORPH cumulative precipitation for the 3rd week of November and monthly accumulation.

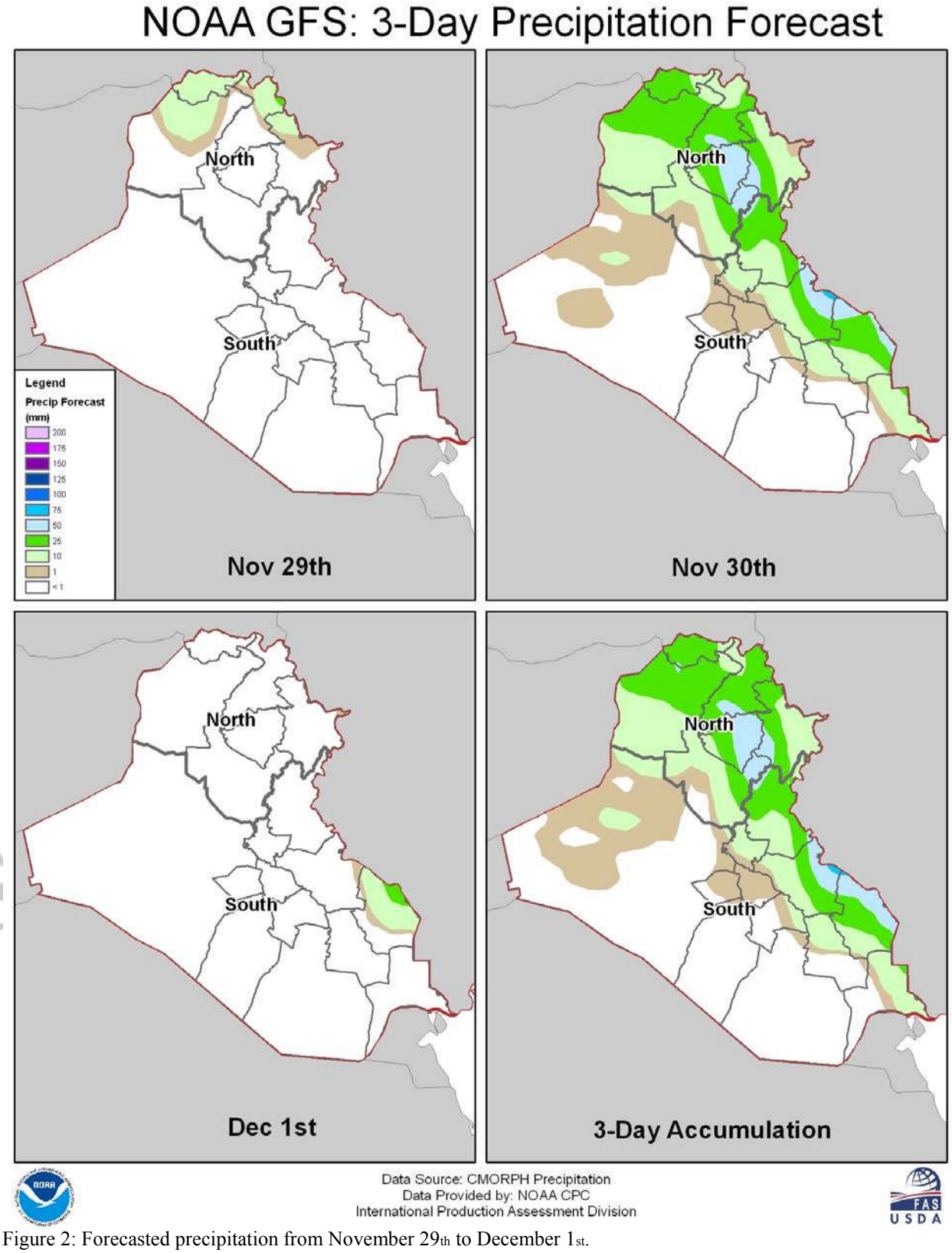


Figure 2: Forecasted precipitation from November 29th to December 1st.

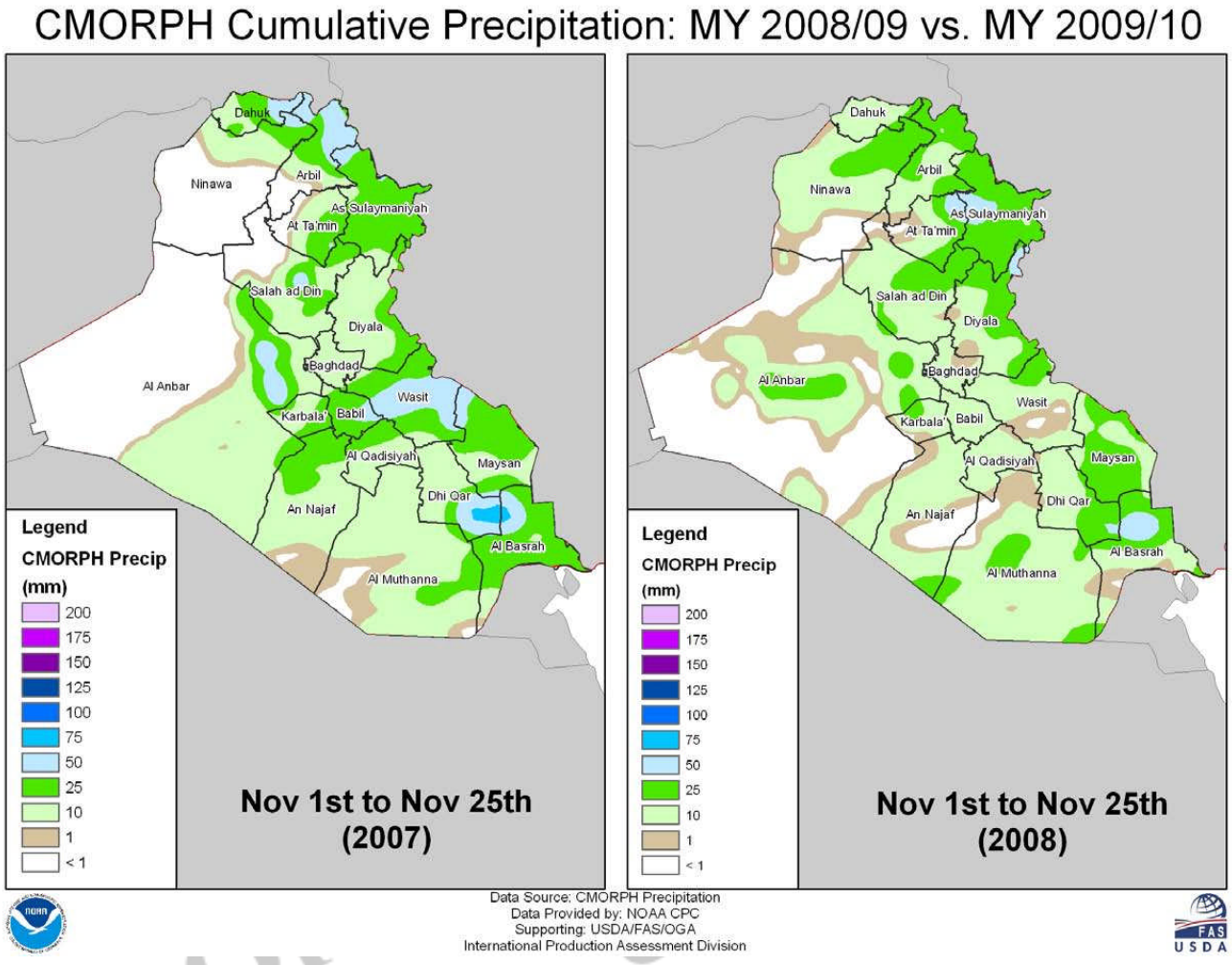


Figure 3: CMORPH monthly cumulative precipitation comparison: Current year vs. previous year.

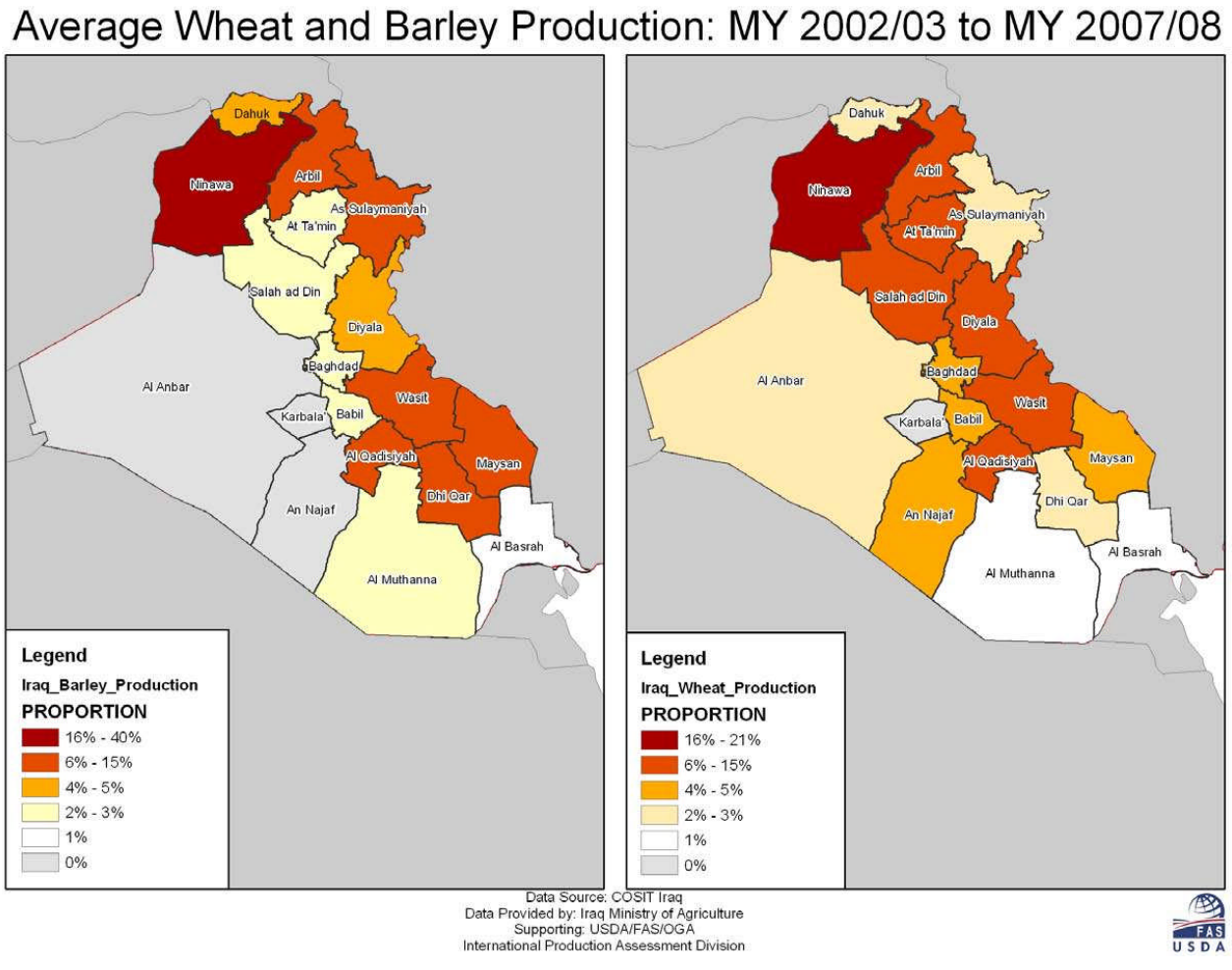


Figure 4: Average wheat and barley production from MY 2002/03 to MY 2007/08: Official provincial statistics for MY 2008/09 are not available.

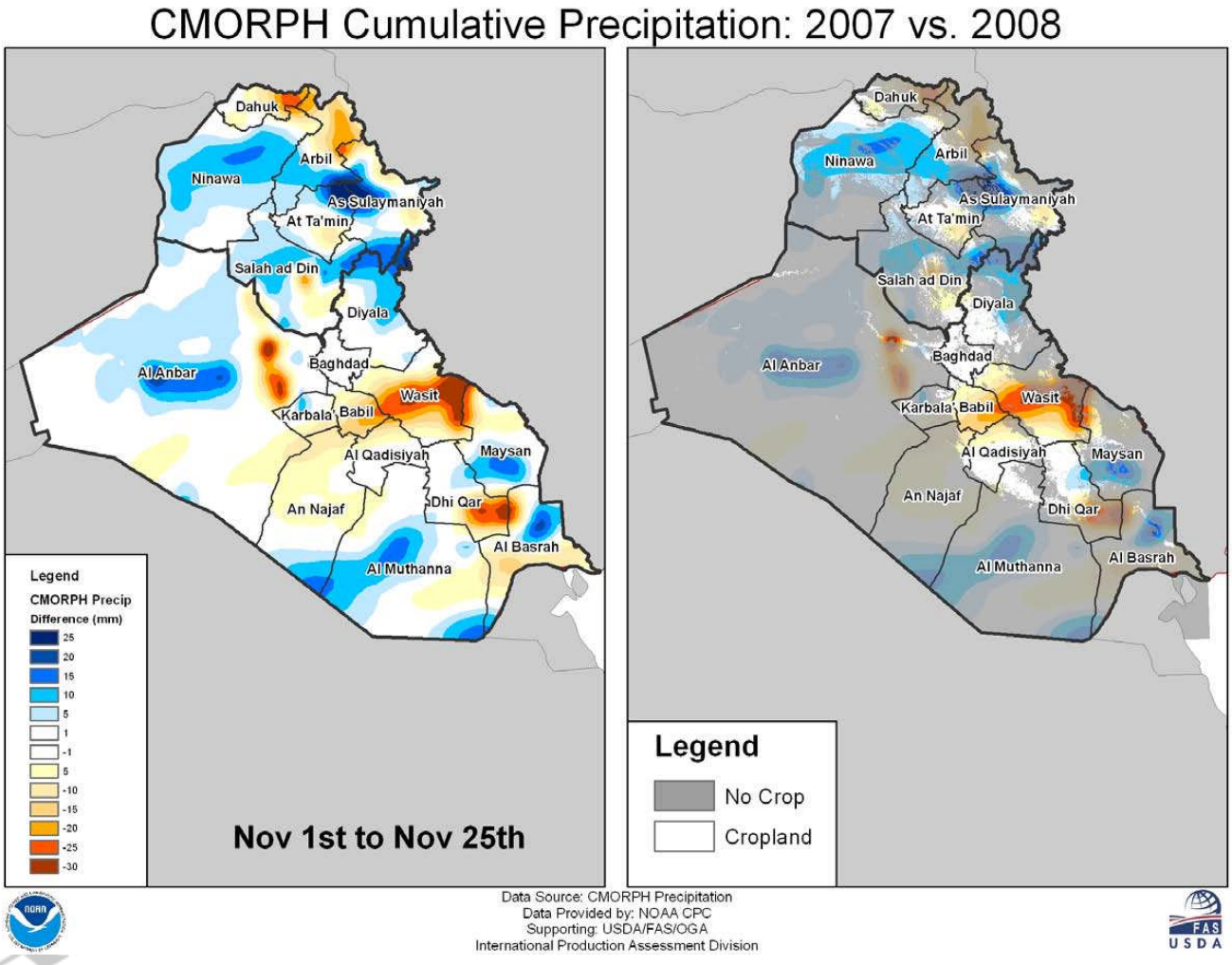


Figure 5: Difference in cumulative precipitation between the current year and previous year.

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